

THE PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COUNTY AREA T/S
USERS GROUP
NEWS LETTER

VOLUME 7

NUMBER 4

APRIL 1989

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 V/CHAIRMAN: MERLIN RAYMOND
 SECRETARY: BETTY SCHAFFLER
 TREASURER: ROD GOWEN
 PR OFFICER: BOB EVANS
 LIBRARIAN: GAYLEN BENCH

MEETING

The APRIL meeting will be:

on: FRI., APRIL 14, 1989

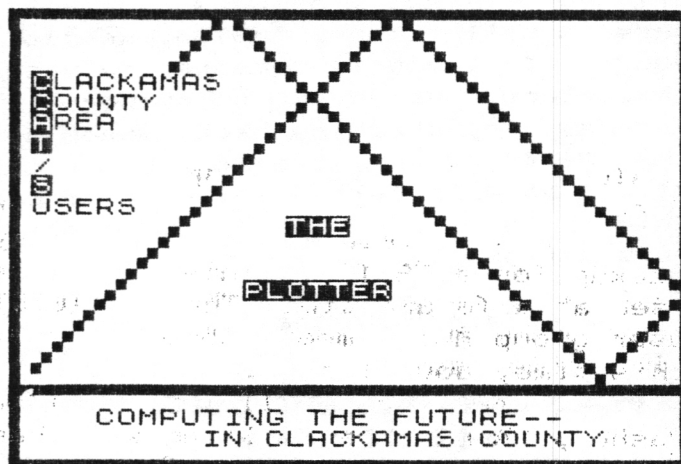
meeting room open at: 7:00 P.M.

in: COMMUNITY ROOM

FAR WEST FEDERAL S & L
OREGON CITY SHOPPING CENTER

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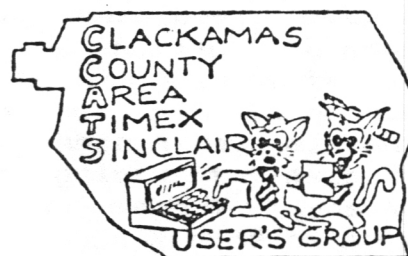


SOAP BOX

I hope that many of our members have taken the time to give the Remember When BBS a call (652-5803). This is an excellent Bulletin Board with a large storage capacity for uploading files and programs. However the quality of any BBS depends on input from the users. There is a message base dedicated to Timex/Sinclair computers, a file section allowing downloading of T/S programs and files. *Time Designs Magazine* also has a dedicated message base. This is an excellent means of keeping in touch with our members and providing feedback to *TD's* editor. Rod has provided the group's proposed by-laws as a download file. I have also posted a couple of QL programs on this board. Do your part and check it out, or upload some good Public Domain programs. DON'T allow this wonderful *plus* for our computers to disappear. Give it a call and drop the SYSOP a thankyou (or a few dollars to pay for the electricity).

Speaking of keeping in touch with our members... There are a few long lost members floating around out there. Think of them as old

» » »



friends or family members and give them a call to say, "Hello, we miss you." If there is someone you wish to contact, but need a number or address, try checking back issues of the *Plotter*, or give Rod Gowen or Dick Wagner a call. They should be able to provide you this information.

Sinclairly Michael E. Carver

MARCH MEETING MINUTES

These minutes of the March 3 meeting were prepared by Dick Wagner in the absence of Secretary Betty Schaffler who didn't wish to brave the winter weather.

The March meeting was opened at 7:50 by Vice Chairman Merlin Raymond in the absence of Chairman Michael Carver. About 10 people were in attendance. Rod Gowen presented another half-hour of video taped computer education program delving into to world of computer graphics and sound.

The Treasurer reported that we experienced nearly a 100% membership renewal and we started the year with about \$520 after dues were paid. Out of this we owe Rod and Tim about \$100 to help recoup expenses for the computer fair.

Bob Evans reported that he had located 3 possible locations for the May dinner. See the explanation in an article in this issue.

Merlin read a letter from Tim Woods explaining that the death of his father has required a lot of time and will affect the delivery of the current issue of *Time Designs* magazine.

Gaylen Bench requested interested purchasers of certain QL computer programs advertised in *QL World* magazine contact him for a single order. He is confronted with the usual problem of paying for over seas orders. There was some discussion on this subject.

Time Designs magazine sent 2 notices of interest to *Time Design* subscribers. See the reprints in this issue. Excerpts from these were read at the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

LARKEN LINES

by: ROD GOWEN

We are back again! Christmas is just around the corner and I am sure you are all getting your lists of Larken items you want posted all around the house as gentle hints!

MAXCOMM!-

The new terminal emulator/BBS software package from LARKEN, is being shipped and is in use now by many avid Larken users in this country and Canada. What I would like is for someone (maybe more than one) to send in a review or at least their thoughts on the operation and ease of use of the package.

NEW SOFTWARE

Larry says he has finished the *SEQUENTIAL FILING PROGRAM* is finished and he is working on the documentation. We should have it soon for all of you who have been waiting. Keep watching here. No word on when to expect the DTP from Larry yet. We will keep you posted on that as well.

PROGRAM TIPS

Here are a couple of program tips that I thought you might be able to use and that might save some of you some time. I spoke to Larry Kenny and during our conversation I mentioned that I wondered why it took so long to copy a disk with his *COPY A DISK* in the *FORMAT* program when it could be done a bit faster with *Byte-Power's* utility. He told me to look at the basic lines in his *COPY* program and to change all of the *PAUSE* values that appear between lines 510 through 740. I went through and changed them all to a value of 1. *WHAT A DIFFERENCE!* It may not be as fast as machine code, but it does do it in half the time.

>>>>

Got a short Larken related program or modification that you have written? Why not send it in for publication? I am sure that you would be helping a lot of folks.

BUG ALERT!

A small bug somehow nibbled its way into the first few copies of MAXCOM that left LARKEN ELECTRONICS and we could not stop them in time to fix them. In case you received one of these copies, you can tell if it is bad or not by BREAKing to BASIC and LISTing line 1000. If you see the command: RANDOMIZE USR init twice in that line, then you have a "buggy" copy! All you need do to correct it is to DELETE the first RANDOMIZE USR init. You must then re-SAVE the BASIC portion of the program.

That's all for now. If you have any comments or hints, drop us a line or call. LONG LIVE UKDOS!

BITS & BYTES

by: ROD GOWEN

Heard any TS related news lately? Did you get any information in the mail from other users, user groups, or vendors that may be of interest to our readers? If so, why not share it with us? We need all of the help that we can get. Please send any info that you might have to: Rod Gowen, C/O CCAT/S, 1419 1/2 7th Street, Oregon City, OR 97045, or, phone in at: 503/655-7484, NOON - 10 PM weekdays. I know that the entire user group will appreciate it!

RMG ENTERPRISES-

reports that they have recently acquired a lot of used gear and some great liquidation items. If you would be interested in seeing what is available, you can get on their mailing list by sending 12 legal sized SASEs to: RMG ENTERPRISES, 1419 1/2 7TH STREET, OREGON CITY, OR 97045. You will even get a coupon good toward a future purchase!

CCAT/S DINNER MEETING-

is still on for the May meeting. (2nd Friday in May) At present the exact location is not set. Due to VERY POOR attendance at the March meeting, we could not even discuss it! Be at the April meeting and get in on the choice!

MS-DOS FOR THE QL-

IS HERE! RMG has received a review copy and is duly impressed with the product. Admittedly, it is slow. But what emulator is not? After all, it is doing a LOT more work to get the job done. Our advice?? IF YOU ALREADY HAVE A QL WITH AT LEAST 512K RAM AND 2 DISK DRIVES- GO FOR IT! At about \$150, it is rather an inexpensive way to get to use MS-DOS. HOWEVER!, if you do NOT have the added memory or disk drives, DO NOT BOTHER! Unless you are just so totally in love with your QL that you could not bear to slight it by not giving it MS-DOS! It would cost you nearly \$800 to get it running from a bare QL! BE AWARE! At the present time, there is about a 4-6 week backlog on orders for THE SOLUTION, due to tremendous demand. GET YOUR ORDER IN TODAY TO ASSURE EARLIEST DELIVERY!

ZEBRA SYSTEMS-

is selling off its TS product line to turn all of their efforts toward the Tandy CoCo market. Negotiations are currently underway between Zebra, RMG and WMJ Data Systems for a partial or total buy-out of their remaining stock. We will keep you posted. At present, BE AWARE! ZEBRA WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY ORDER FOR UNDER \$25!

REMEMBER WHEN BBS?-

Remember that name? WELL, FORGET IT!! It is now called: THE BULL PEN BBS! Same phone #: 503/652-5803. Same settings: 8/1/N. Same hours: 24Hrs 7 days/week. Give it a try. If you do not use it, we will lose it!

COMPUSERVE-

has been a great place for TS support in the past and there are still a lot of the old-timers on the Forum along with quite a few newcomers. BUT! (Did you see that coming?) Now CIS (Compuserve Information Services) is initiating a "membership fee" on top of the standard online fee! The membership fee is slated to be \$1.25-\$1.50 per month. Not much, but it is the idea of a new charge that may deter some from joining the Forum. We hope that usage will not drop because of this. Check it out sometime. You might find something there you can use!

TIME DESIGNS-

according to all reports we have been receiving, is not answering any phone calls or letters. We have been receiving

complaints regarding late or non delivery of any issue since last summer. We are removing ourselves from the middle of this situation. From now on, if you have any questions or problems with TDM, contact them at: 503/824-2658 or TIME DESIGNS MAGAZINE, 29722 HULT ROAD, COLTON, OR 97017. PLEASE! DO NOT CONTACT RMG OR THE PLOTTER REGARDING TDM. If we hear anything, we will post it here. Otherwise, we will not mention it again.

'NUFF FOR NOW-

See you later—

CHAOS

The following program was inspired by a recent NOVA program. See lines 990 - 1050 for details. *This program is available for download on the Remember When BBS.*

```

10 REMark *** Chaos by Michael E
. Carver
20 REMark *** 2/11/89
30 chaos
100 DEFine PROCedure chaos
105 introduction
110 RANDOMISE
115 CLS #4
117 message
120 REMark *** select starting
point
130 n=RND(1 TO 6)
135 INK #4,n+1
140 SElect ON n
150 ON n=1 TO 2: x=0: y=255
160 ON n=3 TO 4: x=255: y=255
170 ON n=5 TO 6: x=127: y=0
180 END SElect
190 the_show
210 END DEFine chaos
220 :
230 DEFine PROCedure choose
240 n=RND(1 TO 6)
260 END DEFine choose
270 :
280 DEFine PROCedure where
290 SElect ON n
300 ON n=1 TO 2: x=dec(x): y=
inc(y)
400 ON n=3 TO 4: x=inc(x): y=
inc(y)
500 ON n=5 TO 6
502 SElect ON x
510 ON x=128 TO 255: x=mid_
dec(x)
515 ON x=0 TO 126: x=mid_in
c(x)

```

```

517 END SElect
520 y=dec(y)
600 END SElect
610 END DEFine where
620 :
630 DEFine PROCedure display
640 POINT #4,x,y
645 INK #4,RND(2 TO 7)
650 END DEFine display
660 :
670 DEFine PROCedure the_show
680 REPEAT loop
690 choose
695 where
700 display
705 IF INKEY#=CHR$(27) THEN S
TOP
710 END REPEAT loop
720 END DEFine the_show
730 :
740 DEFine FuNction dec(a)
755 a=a/2
760 RETURN a
770 END DEFine dec
780 :
790 DEFine FuNction inc(a)
800 a=a+(256-a)/2
810 RETURN a
820 END DEFine inc
830 :
840 DEFine FuNction mid_dec(a)
850 a=a-(a-127)/2
860 RETURN a
870 END DEFine mid_dec
880 :
890 DEFine FuNction mid_inc(a)
900 a=a+(127-a)/2
910 RETURN a
920 END DEFine mid_inc
930 :
940 DEFine PROCedure introductio
n
950 canvas
960 CSIZE #4,3,1: INK #4,43
970 AT #4,1,10: PRINT #4,"C H
A O S"
980 CSIZE #4,1,0: INK #4,6
990 PRINT #4,"The following p
rogram will illustrate an amazin
g concept of \"CHAOS.\"
1000 PRINT #4,\"Imagine a tria
ngle standing on its point. The
upper left-hand \"corner is 1&2
-- the upper right-hand corner
is 3&4 -- while the \"bottom is
5&6.\"
1010 PRINT #4,\"The computer w
ill pick a random number between
1 and 6 and will \"plot a point
within the triangle mid-way bet
ween the last point plotted and

```


the corner equal to that number.

```
1020 PRINT #4\\ "One would assume that the triangle would eventually be a solid mass of points. However CHAOS provides us with an interesting result!"
```

```
1030 PRINT #4\\ "Press any key to view the world of CHAOS for yourself. . ."
```

```
1040 PAUSE
```

```
1050 END DEFine introduction
```

```
1060 :
```

```
1070 DEFine PROCedure message
```

```
1075 STRIP #0,24
```

```
1080 PRINT #0;"ESC to quit"
```

```
1090 STRIP #0,0
```

```
1100 END DEFine message
```

```
1110 :
```

```
31900 DEFine PROCedure canvas
```

```
31902 MODE 4: OPEN #4,scr_512x256a0x0
```

```
31903 SCALE #4,256,-32,0
```

```
31904 PAPER #4,0: INK #4,6: CLS #4
```

```
31918 END DEFine canvas
```

EDITOR'S NOTE: I tried this program and obtained only a diagonal line, up and left. Must have had an error I couldn't find.

NOTICE --

SUBJECT: TIME DESIGNS ANNOUNCES NEW PUBLICATION FOR Z88

While, occasional articles in TIME DESIGNS Magazine have covered the Z88 laptop computer (Clive Sinclair's latest invention), it has always been the contention of publisher, Tim Woods, that a separate publication was needed to adequately meet the needs of the average Z88 user.

PIPELINE is a new newsletter that is actually a joint project between Tim Woods and Paul Bingham (of Classy Front End fame). Paul is the Managing Editor and Tim publishes and distributes it.

A subscription to PIPELINE includes membership in CLUB Z88, the U.S. Z88 Users Group. One club member operates a 24-hour BBS for the Z88 in the Southern California area.

The first issue of PIPELINE has already been released, and the second issue is currently in production. The newsletter contains information on new products, reviews, program listings, hints and tips, and hardware projects.

Unlike previous Sinclair microcomputers, the Z88 has the ability to converse with many different computers, including the IBM PC (and compatibles) and the Macintosh. The typical Z88 user is usually an avid laptop enthusiast (Tandy, HP, Toshiba, etc.) and has not previously owned a Sinclair computer.

However, more Sinclair owners are jumping on the Z88 band wagon all the time. The price tag has been a stumbling block, but some price cutting may be on the horizon. The Z88 has many characteristics of earlier Sinclair machines, including the Z80 CPU, but also has many new advances (such as built-in programs and up to three Megabytes of optional RAM). The Z88 will also swap files with the Sinclair QL and TS2068 with a serial interface.

For further information on PIPELINE, write to TIME DESIGN/CLUB Z88, Hult Rd., Colton, OR 97017

NOTICE --

Tim Woods, Editor and Publisher of TIME DESIGNS Magazine has announced: "Our Timex Sinclair magazine is still very much alive, even though some of our recent issues have been released late!"

Due to the birth of a new son, Anthony David Woods, during the Holiday season, both Tim and Stephany Woods, who produce the computer magazine as a family "hobby" and on a part-time basis, found a lot of their energy was devoted to the new addition.

Tim commented, "I was sorry to hear that SYNCWARE NEWS, another Timex publication, has folded. But, understandably, it has become increasingly difficult for most editors and publishers to work on a limited time schedule and with a declining user base, to keep going. I'm not joking when I say that to produce a newsletter, or magazine of any size is a tremendous amount of work...a real labor of love! We are re-organizing our efforts here at TIME DESIGNS to ensure that our magazine is published for many years to come. I feel it is a worthwhile project."

>>>>

On the eve of releasing their Fourth Anniversary issue, several changes have been made to improve service to TIME DESIGNS customers. First of all, the bi-monthly designation of issues has been dropped. Instead, only a numbering of volume and issue will be used. For example, "VOLUME 5 ISSUE ONE" will indicate the upcoming anniversary issue (formerly the Nov/Dec '88 issue).

"We just felt it would be redundant for our readers to receive a winter issue in the springtime. Our customers will get every issue they have paid for! We will offer subscription for both six and twelve issues. Starting with VOL.5 NO.1 we will continue to release issues approximately sixty days apart. A lot of electronic journals are numbered this way, in fact we have always numbered TIME DESIGNS along with the bi-monthly designation, so it shouldn't be too confusing."

Along with this numbering system, some new software will be put on-line to track subscription accounts.

"I think our mailing label and the expiration information was kind of confusing for some individuals. The new software should alleviate this problem. Instead of an expiration date, there will be a number in the upper right-hand corner. This will indicate how many issues are remaining." (EXAMPLE: [5] indicates five issues remaining).

TIME DESIGNS readers will also notice a new look, a new logo, and upgrades to several sections.

"To lighten my own work load, I have arranged for some of our regular contributors to take over whole sections and be completely responsible for their content and appearance. For instance, Stan Lemke and Bill Ferrebee will be collaborating on a regular TS2068 section."

Other sections, including the one for the Sinclair QL will get similar treatment. Extensive use of telecommunications (modems) for

author submissions will also help to speed up magazine production.

"If anyone has experienced missed issues or similar problems, we want to encourage them to drop us a postcard or note. We also maintain a 24-hour message machine for this purpose (503-824-2658). We will correct the problem, just as soon as we possibly can."

"We have appreciated everybody's patience with some of our delays. Generally, most everyone has been really understanding. Our Timex Sinclair community is made up of a great bunch of people. In return, we will continue to publish a quality magazine."

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This month's issue of THE PLOTTER has a good mixture of material and information except we need 2068 programs. We prefer programs not more than about 120 printed lines which is about 1 page. While about half of our members have QL computers now, most still use the 2068. After all, we have considerable dollars invested in these computers, peripherals and programs.

Disk drives offer an improvement in operation that was not available from Timex. We are thankful for the perseverance of Aerco, Larken and Oliger to produce such useful equipment. Then add the ability to operate Aerco and Oliger systems as Larken systems by the addition of a cartridge. Thus many of us can now interchange programs and utilities in the Larken format without the need to purchase completely new systems. SPDOS is also available for Oliger owners.

I am not sure if programs developed for the Aerco system can be loaded from disk and then revised in the computer and saved in the Larken format. This can be done with the Oliger system as both systems can be operated at will, simply by using the appropriate commands. If one of the two systems should "drop out" of operation it can be reinitialized without loss of a program.

>>>>

The CCAT/S organization is fortunate that we have lost only one local member who apparently has moved. Last year we had two out of town members, one of whom has continued as a subscriber. This means that we can continue to publish a top quality newsletter on a monthly basis. We consider a monthly issue is important as much is happening in our computer world. The notices from Time Designs magazine are examples. We were in hopes of having these notices for publishing last month but they were not received in time so they are already a month old.

Some members will recall that The Editor was working on a method of printing the logo displayed at the top of page 1 of THE PLOTTER so it would be a direct print, not a paste-on. This edition has a satisfactory duplication of the original design made on a ZX printer. Last month part of the text was accidentally left out plus the inverse printing could not be done as text on my printer. This month a screen dump was used to print the logo.

In the past I have not been succesful in printing a screen dump at any desired location on a page. Now I can program a screen dump for any desired left margin. The printed image can be changed in width by programming the printer in graphics mode. This logo uses the maximum width and height of the screen (256x176 pixels). It is printed with a left margin of 44 characters so the right margin will be 1/4 inch.

Subscribers to UP-DATE! magazine will find the program I used by reviewing Stan Lemke's article on pages 34-38 of the January 1989 issue. The program on page 38 works as a screen dump that sends the data to the printer in the format required for an 8-pin printer head. Thus a maximum of 8 pins can strike in a column of pixels, not as a single

pin, pixel by pixel. This program is speeded up by using the Timachine compiler published by Novelsoft. Stan states that a printed line normally takes about 30 seconds

while a compiled line takes about 10 seconds. I didn't find this advantage in printing 256x8 pixel lines, more like 30 seconds compiled and much longer not compiled. A future issue of THE PLOTTER will explain how the printer codes are put into the program and how the logo is printed.

The following illustrates what a friendly group the Timex Sinclair users are. I have carried on a "pen pal" correspondence with Dottie Bundy of Ventura CA (see graphic submitted by Dottie and printed on page 8 of the March issue). Recently my wife Elva and I were in southern California and visited with Dottie and her husband Paul. Dottie is upgrading her 2068/Aerco system with a Larken cartridge. She is strong on original computer graphics besides being a commercial artist. Plus she has an intertest in machine knitting (my wife's hobby, not mine). So, we had a great time getting acquainted, with so much in common. Add to this Paul's hobby of orchid growing. Such versatile people! Dottie is using a program called "Gypsy" developed by Jack Dohany. Maybe we can get a review of this not yet released program.

Did you miss the first paragraph in Larken Lines? I hate to consider how many "I want" notes I would be putting up between now and next Christmas. And do readers who have called Time Designs magazine wonder of the automatic message receiving machine (it answers only with a canned message) automatically erases the previous message, thus reducing the need for replies? I do not like to consider that Tim is using the same methods used by those "failed" publications of past years.

Seen on a California bakery sign:--

"ENJOY LIFE AND EAT YOUR DESSERT FIRST"

=====

MAY DINNER

-NOTICE-

CCAT/S members voted to have the May 12th no-host dinner at 7:00 PM. Bob Evans, appointed to find a suitable dinning location, has located 3 possible choices so members will need to vote on one at the April meeting.

By location, north to south on McLoughlin Blvd--

DENNY'S at 16215 (across from BESTS)

Various entrees, main dinners, desserts, drink, drinks, salads. Cost \$4.15 to \$7.95. Separate dining room available.

NORTH S CHUCK WAGON S.E. 17180

Roast beef, ham, shrimp, fish (Smorgy style), Salads, drinks, desserts. Cost \$5.39
May not be able to sit as a group.

GATES, 18203 at Jennings Lodge

Soup and salad family style
Order from main menu for entree (May have streak and scallops)
Various dinner drinks & desserts. Cost \$4.29 to \$8.49
One large table set up in main dinning area. Smoking permitted.

Opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of members of the Clackamas County Area T/S User Group. Meeting minutes carry the consensus of members present at meetings. This newsletter nor staff will be held liable for any damage or consequences due to following instructions, or review of products as contained in this newsletter.

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===== -8- =====

CCAT/S

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